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978-1-108-62625-5 — Contemporary Australian Tort Law

Joanna Kyriakakis , Tina Popa , Francine Rochford , Natalia Szablewska , Xiaobo Zhao , Jason Taliadoros , Darren

O'Donovan , Lowell Bautista

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CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIAN TORT LAW

Contemporary Australian Tort Law is an engaging, accessible and student-friendly introduction to the law of torts in Australia. This unique text presents the foundational topics of tort law in a logical way, covering duty of care, breaches, negligence, damages and defences, as well as higher level topics such as defamation and offences in public office.

Each chapter is supported by tools for self-assessment and self-reflection: review questions throughout the chapter; case boxes that delve into important historical cases; and longer, narrative problems that challenge students to apply the principles learned in the chapter to real-world scenarios.

Exploring the history of torts in Australia alongside more recent cases and newer issues, *Contemporary Australian Tort Law* is both comprehensive and user-friendly. This book is an indispensable resource for law students taking their first course in tort law.

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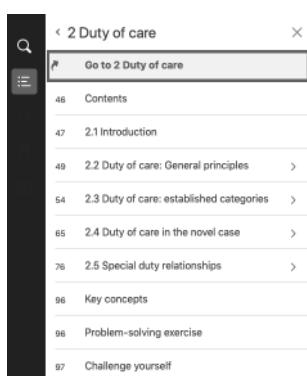
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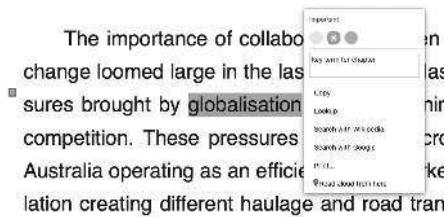
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Case links

Where available, a link to the full case under discussion in the case boxes has been provided at the start of the box.

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Case questions

Respond to the questions and use the guided solutions to assess your responses. Note that the solution pop-ups can be moved about the page.

? Question

Q: Identify the 'neighbour principle' from *Donoghue v Stevenson*.

The 'neighbour principle' from *Donoghue v Stevenson*

As stated by Lord Atkin:

'acts or omissions which any moral code would censure cannot in a practical world be treated so as to give a right to every person injured by them to demand relief. In this way rules of law arise which limit the range of complainants and the extent of their recoveries.'

Check answer

Review questions

Respond to the review questions at the end of each major section and use the guided solutions to assess your responses. Note that the solution pop-ups can be moved about the page.

? Review questions

Q1: What categories of persons are, as a matter of precedent, owed a duty by other persons?

The categories of person owed a duty by other

Categories of established duty include: manufacturer-consumer (for physical injury), doctor-patient (for physical injury), school-student (for physical injury), employer-employee and solicitor-client.

Q2: Explain the circumstances in which a case involving an established category of duty (eg, driver-passenger, doctor-patient) might be distinguished?

A case that involved an established category of

This answer requires you to: (1) determine the effectiveness of your 'duty' issue in sufficiently circumscribing your answer; and (2) exercise the simple legal technique of distinguishing a precedent. The *precedent answer* would involve

Videos

Informative video links appear at the end of some chapters to highlight and enhance the topics under discussion. Click the icon to access the content. Videos can be found at the end of Chapters 1, 9 and 11.

What is the NDIS?

 Created by the National Disability Insurance Agency, this animated video introduces the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The video will assist you to explore the implementation of a statutory scheme and its rollout throughout Australia.

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Multiple-choice questions

Open the multiple-choice questions pop-up box, select your choice of correct answers and click 'Check answers' to assess your results. Note that this box can be moved about the page for you to read text while choosing your responses.

Multiple-choice questions

Q1: The question of whether a duty is owed by the defendant to the plaintiff is a:

- A – Question of law determinable by a jury
- B – Question of fact determinable by a jury
- C – Question of law based solely upon whether the damage was foreseeable
- D – Question of law typically determinable by precedent

Q2: A defendant owes a duty to take reasonable care to prevent psychological harm:

- A – Never; psychological harm is not recognised by the law because it is too difficult to prove.
- B – Sometimes; when there is an existing precedent or salient features, subject to legislation in each jurisdiction
- C – Never; legislation in all jurisdictions removes the right to sue for psychological harm
- D – Always; the plaintiff should always be aware of the psychological consequences of their actions

Problem-solving exercises

Respond to the problem-solving exercise at the end of each chapter and use the guided solutions to assess your response. Note that the solution pop-ups can be moved about the page.

Problem-solving exercise

Herm was driving to pick up her friend Hervé from work at about 5.15 pm – during rush hour. The traffic was worse than usual, banked up all the way along George Street, and Herm merged as he got closer to the intersection of George Street and Novion Road that there had been an accident. Two cars had collided at the intersection, but it didn't look serious.

On his way over he drove past the accident again. By that time police and emergency vehicles were there, and traffic was being redirected. Later he went to the home of his girlfriend's parents for dinner, and drove past the scene of the accident a third time. He didn't pay much attention to it. Later still he drove past the intersection, and noticed that one of the cars had severe damage, and had been open to reveal someone inside. He wondered, then, if someone had been badly hurt.

At 10.30 pm that night his ex-wife came to see him. They talked that his brother Michael had been killed in a car accident, the last caught in traffic from work with Piers, who had been speeding and had gone through a stop sign. Herm then realised he had passed the accident several times.

Herm was distraught. He went back to the intersection. Michael should have stopped and done something to help.

Over the next few months, Herm finds that he is not getting on. Assuming that there was a break and that Herm is in fact ok.

This scenario is based on [Map 10.10](#) (below). In that case, the South Australian legislation dealing with 'negligent gatekeepers' meant:

Note: Use the scenario as an opportunity to reinforce the principles that demonstrate how the Court resolves the issue. This case is also used as a stimulus in relation to next to follow to evaluate new

1. What is the issue?

- Broadly stated: Is Piers liable in negligence to Herm for failing to take reasonable steps to avoid psychological harm?
- Narrowly stated: Does Piers owe a duty to Herm to take reasonable steps to avoid psychological harm?

2. Identify the relevant principles

The normal duty of care process is:

- Ask whether there is an established duty.
- If there is not, use the ["Reasonable Person" test](#).

points of a post-traumatic stress reader.

relevant reference.

law is equivalent to the [Whiplash Act 1988 \(Vic\)](#). Find the provisions of the law in your state or territory.

novel case, then consider the process of reasoning in the High Court to

Challenge yourself exercises

Respond to the challenge yourself exercise at the end of each chapter and use the guided solutions to assess your response. Note that the solution pop-ups can be moved about the page.

Challenge yourself

The Council was carrying out repairs to some rural roads so that they could not be readily moved, whereas the Council had deployed fibre barriers to protect workers. During the night, somebody moved the two end (empty) bars.

Determine whether the Council owed a duty of care.

The bars in the Council's table is negligent to Piers to take reasonable

1. What is the issue?

- Broadly stated: Is the Council liable in negligence to Piers to take reasonable steps to avoid physical injury?
- Narrowly stated: Did the Council owe a duty of care to protect Piers from the unlawful conduct of third parties?

2. Identify the relevant principles

The normal duty of care process is:

irs were going on. Those plastic barriers were designed to be filled with water or
igh 65 kg; when full, 800 kg. In arranging the barriers around the worksite, the car did collide with them, they would not cause too much injury. Someone dur-
as injured.

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GUIDE TO INSTRUCTOR RESOURCES

A variety of resources for instructors are provided on the companion website to this text, at www.cambridge.org/academic/tortlaw. These materials are designed to help instructors prepare lectures and tutorials.

Tutorial questions: four questions with guided responses for each chapter for use in tutorials or as homework.

Exercises: two problem solving or essay-style questions with guided responses for each chapter for use in tutorials or as homework.

PowerPoint® slides: a set of slides for each chapter provides an overview of the chapter, featuring key concepts, major headings and all flowcharts and jurisdictional tables from the printed text.

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